Please rewrite claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 17, 19 and 23 as set forth below in clean form. In accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.121(b), (c), Applicants have attached to this paper a marked-up copy of the amended claims.

1. (Amended) A pharmaceutical dosage form comprising a central core including a pharmaceutical agent in a controlled-release composition, said core having two exposed opposite end surfaces and a peripheral surface extending between said two exposed opposite end surfaces, said peripheral surface surrounded by a diffusion-limiting sleeve, said sleeve being substantially impervious to water or bodily fluids thereby limiting diffusion of fluids into said core, wherein said pharmaceutical dosage form is formed by simultaneous melt extrusion of said central core and said diffusion-limiting sleeve resulting in said central core being a glassy matrix.

5. (Amended) Pharmaceutical dosage form, as recited in Claim 1, wherein said diffusion-limiting sleeve comprises at least one of ethyl cellulose and polymethacrylate.

9. (Amended) Pharmaceutical dosage form, as recited in Claim 1, wherein said glassy matrix comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polyvinylalcohol, polymethacrylate, cellulose acetate phthalate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, hydroxypropylcellulose phthalate, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose acetate succinate, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylethylcellulose, and polysorbate 80.

10. (Amended) Pharmaceutical dosage form, as recited in Claim 9, wherein said glassy matrix comprises polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyethylene glycol.

17. (Amended) A method of making a pharmaceutical dosage form comprising:

coextruding an indefinite length of an at least partially melted central core and outer layer to form a co-extrudate having a longitudinal axis, said central core including a pharmaceutical agent disposed in a controlled-release composition, and said outer layer being substantially impervious to water or bodily fluids thereby limiting diffusion of fluids into said central core;

slicing said co-extrudate across the longitudinal axis thereof to form discrete pellets; and

cooling said co-extrudate so that said central core comprises a glassy matrix.

19. (Amended) Method of making a pharmaceutical dosage form, as recited in Claim 17, wherein said co-extrudate is sliced perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

23. (Amended) Method of making a pharmaceutical dosage form, as recited in Claim 17, wherein said co-extrudate is sliced with a laser.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

This paper responds to an Office Action (paper No. 3), which was mailed on July 25, 2002. As originally filed, the Application presented claims 1-24 for examination. This paper cancels claims 8 and 13-16 without prejudice or disclaimer, amends claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 17, 19 and 23, and adds no new claims. Therefore, claims 1-7, 9-12, and 17-23 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

By action taken here, Applicants in no way intend to surrender any range of equivalents beyond that needed to patentably distinguish the claimed invention as a whole over the prior art. Applicants expressly reserve all such equivalents that may fall in the range between Applicants' literal claim recitations and combinations taught or suggested by the prior art.